

# Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

**Form F**

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: Mud Slough Restoration Project

Lead Agency: San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority

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Project Location: East of Gustine at China Island Unit of North Grasslands WA

Merced

*City*

*County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Proposed Project objective is to restore and enhance wildlife habitat on the China Island Unit of the North Grasslands Wildlife Management Area and on the Newman Land Company property by reestablishing Mud Slough flows to portions of those lands that were isolated from Mud Slough as a result of the Grassland Bypass Project. The Proposed Project would replace the water supplies to Newman Lake through the restoration of the hydrologic connection between Mud Slough and the Lake. Natural erosion effects of flow in Mud Slough have caused the normal water level to drop to approximately four feet below the Newman Lake water level. Therefore, hydraulic modification is required. Structures previously installed on China Island will be removed.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

In addition to the wetland restoration compensation mitigation, specific mitigation measures are part of the Proposed Project in order to reduce all potentially significant impacts to biological resources to less than significant. The mitigation measures address potential impacts to all of the following: special status plants, vernal pool branchiopods, California tiger salamander, giant garter snake, greater sandhill crane, San Joaquin kit fox, Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, white-tailed kite, western bumble bee, Midvalley Fairy Shrimp, California Linderiella, Molestan blister beetle, western spadefoot, western pond turtle, San Joaquin coachwhip, nesting native birds, special-status bats, and special-status natural communities including potentially jurisdictional wetlands and other waters. Furthermore, the Project sponsor shall comply with all terms of the permits issued by the USACE, SWRCB and CDFW, including mitigation requirements. An example of the measures is the following for direct impacts to special status plants (Mitigation Measure PLANT BIO-1(a) in part): 1. Vegetation removal and ground disturbance shall be limited to the minimum necessary to conduct the Project; 2. To the maximum extent practicable, access roads, staging/storage areas, and other Project components shall be located in existing disturbed habitat (such as Developed/Ruderal or Non-Native Grassland habitats) outside of special-status plant populations; 3. Where feasible, Project ground disturbance located in or adjacent to special-status plant occurrences shall be conducted in the summer and fall after annual special-status plant species (such as alkali milk-vetch and Coulter's goldfields) have already completed their life cycle and set seed. For unavoidable disturbances, see Measure BIO-1(c).

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

No areas of controversy are known at this time. Public review has not been completed. Previous coordination with CDFW resulted in a request to include removal of five abandoned water control structures within the China Island wildlife refuge. This activity has been included in the Proposed Project.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Department of Boating and Waterways  
Caltrans District 10  
Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
Department of Conservation  
Department of fish and Wildlife, Region 4 (Fresno)  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Native American Heritage Commission  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region 5  
Resources Agency  
State Lands Commission  
State Water Resources Control Board (Water Quality)  
State Water Resources Control Board (Water Rights)  
Department of Water Resources